



PGA

Illinois Section

2020 ILLINOIS PGA COVID-19 TOURNAMENT POLICIES ADDENDUM

The Illinois PGA would like to announce the following additions and changes to its current policies and procedures. The intent of these changes is to try and provide a safer environment for our tournament season. It is our hope that these increased safety measures allow more of our members to feel comfortable with our events, and that we can provide safe and competitive opportunities. **Due to the fluid situation, these guidelines may change throughout the season. Any player who blatantly disregards these guidelines may be subject to disqualification and removal from the facility.**

All Professionals and staff that attend an Illinois PGA event must self-screen before coming to the event for any of the signs or symptoms possible with COVID-19 listed by the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. If an individual does not feel well, they must stay home and take the proper precautions. Players exercising this option will be given a full refund during the time that these policies are in effect. If you are sick, please stay home.

If a player becomes aware that they have previously been exposed to Covid-19 prior to the event, or symptomatic of Covid-19 after participating at an Illinois PGA event, they MUST immediately contact Carrie Williams at 847-729-5700. The Illinois PGA will follow the state and federal procedures following the report of the illness.

It is the responsibility of all players participating in an Illinois PGA event to fully read and understand these policies and abide by them. By registering for and participating in an Illinois PGA event, players are agreeing to all these policies and to accepting any potential penalties deemed appropriate by the Illinois PGA Staff, Illinois PGA Tournament Committee, and the Illinois PGA Board of Directors. A participation waiver is currently under review and will be provided to the membership in a separate communication.

SOCIAL DISTANCING/PPE

Players, staff, and rules officials not able to properly social distance must wear a face mask. Social Distancing is defined by at least six feet of physical distance between all people and must always be practiced. This includes when players are warming up in practice areas, preparing for a shot, walking down the fairway/rough, on the teeing area, on the putting green, in the scoring area, and all other locations. Players should refrain from touching their fellow competitors in any way, including shaking hands, prior to and following the round. Players should not touch, handle, or share each other's equipment. Failure to follow social distancing guidelines may result in disqualification, removal from the facility, and future event suspensions.

The Illinois PGA will provide hand sanitizer in multiple locations near where any staff interaction is required. Other sanitization methods may be provided as well upon request if available.

PRE-ROUND

ARRIVAL TIME/CHECK-IN:

Players are permitted to arrive 60 minutes prior to their tee time. If a player shows up prior to that time, the player must stay in their vehicle until they are allowed at the facility. There will be no registration at any event prior to when a player arrives at the first tee for their scheduled tee time.

PRACTICE FACILITIES:

A normal pre-round/warm up routine might not be accommodated prior to the round. Players must understand that normal access to facilities may not be allowed by either the Illinois PGA or host facility prior arriving on property. (Stretching in the clubhouse, buying a glove from the pro shop, watching TV in the locker room, etc.)

Driving Range

The Illinois PGA will work responsibly with each host facility to ensure social distancing will be maintained on the driving range prior to the round. The use of properly spaced hitting stations will be available for players to warm up, if allowed and available from the host facility. Competitors must follow social distancing guidelines and not create their own stations on the driving range.

Putting/Chipping Greens

The Illinois PGA strongly encourages each player to use a tee or coin to putt toward instead of a cup to reduce touch points on the practice green. If holes are cut into the practice green, flagsticks will be removed by staff. It is recommended that only one player putt to a target or hole at a time. Social distancing must be followed if players choose to utilize the same hole to practice.

Locker Room

Locker room availability will be dictated by the host facility. If the locker rooms are not available, men's and a women's restrooms will be made available.

FIRST TEE

Players will not be permitted to arrive to the tee prior to 5 minutes before their tee time.

We will no longer provide these items: tees, pencils, sharpies, ball markers, water, sports drinks, or snacks. **Players should come prepared with these items, especially a writing utensil!**

There will be an Illinois PGA staff member to act as a starter at the first tee to review the rules of the day, and to give a basic reminder of safety protocols. These announcements will be much shorter than events in the past. All Illinois PGA tournament supplies will be placed away from the tee box, and we ask that no players enter the tented area or touch any Illinois PGA supplies. Illinois PGA staff members will be wearing gloves when assigned to the first tee, and masks when proper social distancing is not being followed.

Players will be provided an official scorecard for another player in their group for each round. All players will be expected to keep their own scores at the bottom of the scorecard and all scores will be verified verbally at the end of a round. Scorecards will not be exchanged at the end of a round, and players will not be required to sign their scorecards. Please review the scoring section of these procedures for more details.

Notice to competitors/hole Location sheets will be available on the first tee for staff to distribute if a player requests them. In addition, both will be emailed to all participants on the day prior to the event. The email sent to the players prior to the event will include the rules official "hotline" number that can be used during the event to call for a rules official or to report an emergency.

ON COURSE

GOLF CARTS:

The Illinois PGA will work with host facilities to determine cart availability on an event-by-event basis. Players are expected to share a golf cart with another player in their group when assigned. If players are sharing a cart, it is highly encouraged that players wear masks when both seated in the cart. Players may take turns driving the cart in an effort to stay socially distant and allow the other player to walk separately. Single rider golf cart requests will not be accommodated.

In all stroke play and professional team events, players will be asked when they register if they would be willing to walk if there are not enough carts available. After the registration deadline, the Illinois PGA

staff will confirm with players that volunteered to walk whether they are expected to walk or whether they will be provided a golf cart for that event.

CADDIES:

Caddies will be permitted, but the Illinois PGA staff must be notified of, and approve the use of, a caddie prior to the event day. Contact information for all caddies must be reported to the Illinois PGA prior to the event. All caddies will be deemed an extension of the player both on and off the golf course and must follow all Illinois PGA policies and procedures.

BUNKERS/RAKES:

The Illinois PGA will work with the host facility to determine the status of bunkers for each event separately. Bunkers may be considered in play, or part of the general area. If rakes are available, the Illinois PGA will implement procedures as needed for their use.

FLAGSTICK/HOLE LINERS:

The Illinois PGA will not require foam or any other device to be placed inside of a hole and will allow players to remove the flagstick if desired. It will be highly encouraged that players sanitize their hands after the removal and replacing of the flagstick.

WATER/SPORTS DRINKS/SNACKS:

The Illinois PGA will NOT be providing water, sports drinks, or snacks on course at ANY event. Please note that per Phase 4 Golf Guidelines, it is also unlikely that communal water stations/coolers will be provided by the host facility. Players should plan accordingly and bring their own.

RULES OFFICIALS:

Rules officials will be available throughout events. Proper social distancing guidelines are encouraged to be followed, and officials and players will be required to wear a mask if unable to adhere to those guidelines.

POST ROUND

SCORING AREA:

After completion of each round, players will complete filling out the scores on their scorecard and will **NOT** exchange them. Players will follow instructions from Illinois PGA staff when they enter the scoring area.

Social distancing rules must be maintained at all times in the scoring area. There will be designated places for players to stand while in the scoring area to allow for social distancing. Only one group will be allowed in the scoring area at all times.

Each marker will verbally read hole by hole scores to the player they are keeping score for, and the Illinois PGA staff will simultaneously input the scores into the computer as the scores are read aloud. Players will be able to follow along as the scores are read aloud and will also be able to visually see them being inputted as the Illinois PGA computer will be broadcasted on a TV screen. Each player will be asked to verbally attest their scores. **At no point will a player receive their own scorecard, and once the scores have been verbally attested and a player has left the scoring area, all scores are final, and scores will be considered "returned". Any rules questions must be asked and resolved with the scoring official while the group is in the scoring area.**

There will be no paper or electronic leaderboards on site at any Illinois PGA Section events. Players will be able to use the Illinois PGA App or visit ipga.com to check the results.

POST ROUND:

Players must proceed to their cars and exit the property immediately following their scoring procedure. Congregation of any kind will not be allowed on property following the round.

Practice on putting green, short game areas, and driving range following the completion of play is prohibited and may

lead to disqualification of the current event or suspension of future events.

WEATHER DELAYS

In the event play is suspended due to weather, players must proceed to their cars. Players will only be permitted inside the clubhouse to use the restroom.

The Illinois PGA will communicate with the players during the suspension via email and mass text messages. All players will be automatically registered to receive both text message and email updates.

Following a weather delay, players will not be permitted to practice unless approved and communicated by Illinois PGA staff.

PENALTIES

For any individual that is found to be breaching any Covid-19 policies prior to, or after their round, their first offense will result in a warning, and their second offense will result in disqualification from the event. Any breaches following a second offense will be presented to the Tournament Committee as a Code of Conduct Violation.

For any individual that is found to be breaching any Covid-19 policies during the round, the first and second offenses will result in warnings. A third offense will result in a 2-stroke penalty, and their fourth offense will result in disqualification. Any breaches following a fourth offense will be presented to the Tournament Committee as a Code of Conduct Violation.

REFUND POLICY

The Illinois PGA will be providing two (2) refund options throughout the season. If a player cancels before the registration deadline, that player will be given a choice to have the entry fee credited back to his/her credit card or to have it applied to as a credit on his Bluegolf account to be used when registering for a future tournament. If a player cancels after the registration deadline, the refund will be automatically be credited on his/her BlueGolf account to be used later unless a formal Refund Request Form is submitted citing a medical or family emergency. **It is highly encouraged that if a player feels any symptoms of Covid-19 prior to the start of a tournament that they do not play, and they notify the Illinois PGA staff to request a refund.**

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Players will not have the ability to purchase any food or beverage at any of our events unless approved by the host facility. Players will be notified prior to the round if food and beverage service will be available for purchase, otherwise it is to be assumed that it will **NOT** be available.

For the events that have food and beverage included in the entry fee, all efforts will be made to continue that commitment. Details for those events will be communicated on an event by event basis, and players will be notified prior to the event.

SPECTATORS

No spectators will be allowed at the facility unless pre-approved by Illinois PGA staff. The Illinois PGA staff will hope to allow spectators in almost all cases but will need to verify the approval with the host facility and will need to communicate separate safety procedures directly to the spectator if approved. All spectators will be required to provide contact information to the Illinois PGA prior to their arrival at the facility.